English 1A **Peer Review Worksheet: Critical Analysis Essay**

Writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for the writer:
1. What is your **thesis**? Where is it? (Put an asterisk by it on the draft.)

2. **Audience & forum** (the target readers & where you’d publish it) Please be specific! Don’t say “a blog.”

3. What in particular do you want your reviewer to check?
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For the reviewer: Write answers on the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Are the **title and introduction** engaging enough to draw in the **intended readers**? ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Does the introduction contain an overview of the topic that orients the reader to the issue in its current context? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Does it look like the writer has focused the topic narrowly enough to deal with it adequately in a relatively short paper? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Note: Warn the student if there is excessive plot summary in the beginning!

2. Is the **thesis** clear and reasonable, considering the evidence provided? \_\_\_\_\_ **Is there enough support (i.e. support from sources, brief plot points)** to adequately persuade you of the writer’s claims about the film? If not, which claim needs more support? You might also recommend what kind of support.

3. **Are there at least two sources (film critics and/or the filmmaker) referred to and cited properly** (in the style usual for newspapers)? Note: Within the text of the review, the quote or paraphrase should be cited as in a newspaper, with enough info in the signal phrase to give credit and let your reader find more. See p. 165-168 in the text for a model and chapter 50 (especially p. 507) for citing details.

4. Does the essay provide enough **cultural and/or historical context** for this particular audience to understand the film and its significance both to its original audience and to us in the here and now?

5. Is there enough discussion of the film’s **enduring human concerns** for this audience to understand it? Has the writer adequately explained what concern(s) the film addresses and what statement about those concerns it is making? If not, alert the writer that he/she isn’t finished!

6**.**  Is there **genuine analysis** that establishes this writer’s own “take” on the film: analysis of **its meaning**, **interpretation of a central theme**, a **unique response** to it that establishes why this audience should care about the film? If not, ask the writer questions that his/her audience might want answered that might lead toward an adequate personal commentary on the film.

7. Comment on the **organization and coherence** of each paragraph. Are the **transitions** between paragraphs adequate but not mechanical or repetitive? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mark on the draft any problems.

8. **Troubleshooting**: Is there **too much plot retelling**? \_\_\_\_\_\_ Is the plot told in one lump, without commentary? \_\_\_\_ Is there **too much evaluation** instead of analysis? \_\_\_\_\_ If any of these common problems are evident, WARN the writer and suggest a better way to handle this.